

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL  
DAVID H. HUNTOON, JR.

### HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the achievements of Major General David H. Huntoon, Jr., currently serving as the 46th Commandant of the United States Army War College, located in my Congressional District at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. Gen. Huntoon became the 46th Commandant of the Army War College in August 2003. His service in this post will come to a close in January, when he will be reassigned to Fort Myers.

The resume of Gen. Huntoon is long and distinguished, fitting for the Commandant of an institution with a long and distinguished history. Gen. Huntoon was commissioned in 1973 from the Military Academy at West Point. He served thirteen years as an infantry officer; he served in the Directorate of Plans at Fort Bragg during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm and Operation Just Cause; and he has served as a National Security Fellow at the Hoover Institute, as an Executive Officer to the Chief of Staff of the Army, and as the Director of Strategy at the Pentagon.

As the Commandant of the Army War College, Gen. Huntoon has been dedicated to training strategic leaders in the war against terrorism. He speaks of the need to restore the peace shattered on 9/11. He speaks with reverence of both family and the military family, and he has worked to bring the community of Carlisle into the folds of his daily command.

It has been a privilege and an honor to get to know Gen. Huntoon and his family over the past few years. I want to thank him for his dedicated service to the mission of the United States Army War College and to the defense of our great Nation. I wish him and his family the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF  
GEORGE PARASKEVAIDES

### HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to the honor the life and accomplishments of George Paraskevaides, a humanitarian of unmatched proportions. Mr. Paraskevaides was one of the most renowned Cypriot philanthropists of his day. His life story reads like a classic tale of rags to riches. Born in Athens, Greece in 1916, George Paraskevaides moved with his family back to Cyprus where he excelled in school and ultimately graduated from the Polytechnic Institute in Milan, Italy. After World War II, Mr. Paraskevaides, together with Stelios Ioannou, formed the most preeminent architectural engineering firm in Cyprus, Joannou & Paraskevaides.

George Paraskevaides' keen intellect and unmatched work ethic, allowed Joannou & Paraskevaides to become one of the most prolific firms in the Middle East, Africa, and

Asia. This lucrative company allowed Mr. Paraskevaides to engage in the work he enjoyed most: helping others. George quickly became recognized in Cyprus as a champion of Cypriot issues and sick children.

His death on December 5, 2007 at the age of 91 has left a gaping hole in the hearts of Cypriots the world over. He was the voice of all that is true and good about the island nation. President of the Republic of Cyprus, Tassos Papadopoulos, said of the passing of George Paraskevaides. "He was a model of humanity, dignity and kindness. He offered a lot in a selfless way to those who needed help and was a benefactor for Cyprus, serving his country with patriotism. He leaves behind him charity work for which he will be dearly remembered as a man of high moral standards." I could not concur more with this sentiment.

George Paraskevaides is recognized the world over for his good works and philanthropy. He has received innumerable awards including the Medal of Exceptional Contribution, the highest honor of the Republic of Cyprus, Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.) by Queen Elizabeth II, the Order of Oman III, Class Civil by Sultan Qaboos of Oman, the Rotary Foundation Medal, and the Medal of Merit of the Lions International Club of Nicosia, the St. Paul's Medal by the Greek Orthodox Archbishop of North and South America, and the St. Marcus Medal by the Pontifex. He is an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople and was also honored with the Holy Cross of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. In addition, the works of the George and Thelma Paraskevaides Foundation has been recognized for having formed links with Shriners' Hospital in Springfield, MA, and Children's Heart Fund Hospital in Minneapolis and has provided numerous scholarships for less fortunate Cypriots. Paraskevaides founded the Cyprus Kidney Association, the Surgical and Transplant Foundation and the Cyprus Heart Association.

Madam Speaker, while the list of awards is impressive. I am sure the biggest award that George Paraskevaides won in his life was the love and affection of his wife, Thelma, and his family. He will be missed but never forgotten. May his memory be eternal!

HONORING NGHIA VAN DONG

### HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Nghia Van Dong for his service during the Vietnam War.

Nghia Van Dong was born in Hai Phong, Viet Nam, during the end of the Indochina War. Following the Geneva Conventions which brought the conflict to a resolution, Mr. Dong joined fellow refugees in repatriating to the Republic of South Viet Nam. This trip would prove fruitful, as Mr. Dong met his future wife Hanh on the ship which carried him to Saigon.

At the start of the Viet Nam War, Nghia Van Dong knew that his country needed him. He quickly signed up to help with the war effort, and was assigned to the U.S. Army Special Forces for a period of ten years. When Consul General McNamara asked the Commander of the Special Forces to recommend one of his

best senior Vietnamese employees for the important post of chauffeur and body guard, Mr. Dong was his immediate recommendation.

Mr. Dong served as person chauffeur and body guard to the principal officer of American Consulate, while at the same time supervising all the guard personnel. He filled these roles from October 2, 1970, until the final evacuation on April 29, 1975. He was cited for gallantry on a number of occasions, and also for safe-guarding the life of Consul General Francis T. McNamara.

He has a citation for personally attacking three Viet Cong machine gun positions and destroying each of them with small arms and hand grenades. In a moment of sheer bravery, Nghia Van Dong placed himself between Consul General McNamara and a group of Vietnamese Marines, taking several bullets and saving the life of the Consul General. In total, Mr. Dong was wounded ten times over the course of the war.

At the close of the Viet Nam War, Nghia Van Dong came to the United States. Settling in Fairfax, Virginia, Mr. Dong found employment in Hospital Services, working at both Dewitt and Mount Vernon Hospitals. In 2005, Mr. Dong retired from Mount Vernon Hospital Food Service after 26 years of employment.

Mr. Dong and his spouse Hanh are active in the local Vietnamese Church and have been active for years as they enjoy the fruits of their long marriage—their 15 grandchildren. Although recent illness has kept him from many activities, Mr. Dong has always enjoyed fishing, drinking coffee, and playing the lottery. He has also been active in local veterans' groups.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank Nghia Van Dong for his service during the Viet Nam War, and his outstanding legacy of public service here in Northern Virginia. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Mr. Dong.

HONORING BONNIE PALECEK

### HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a colleague and dear friend of mine as she retires as Executive Director of the Council on Abused Women's Services/Coalition Against Sexual Assault in my State of North Dakota. I have had the privilege of knowing Bonnie Palecek for over 25 years and have seen firsthand the leadership and devoted service she has provided in protecting victims of violence.

Bonnie Palecek has been with the North Dakota Council on Abused Women's Services/Coalition Against Sexual Assault for nearly 30 years. Bonnie established the Council on Abused Women's Services in 1980, and has led this network to now connect over 20 domestic violence prevention and intervention programs across the State. Under her leadership, this coalition is the voice for thousands of women and children affected by violence. Bonnie has tirelessly advocated for domestic violence victims and their families and has been the driving force behind passing countless pieces of legislation in North Dakota to protect victims of domestic abuse. After 30 great years, she will be difficult to replace.

I know that Bonnie Palecek will be sorely missed by all who have known her dedication to serving victims of sexual and domestic violence. I offer her my congratulations and best wishes for her continued success and happiness in the coming years.

LETTER FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL (NAAG) OPPOSING H.R. 2046, THE "INTERNET GAMBLING REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2007"

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I am submitting for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a letter from the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) signed by 45 Attorneys General opposing Representative BARNEY FRANK's legislation, H.R. 2046, the "Internet Gambling Regulation and Enforcement Act of 2007." In this letter, these Attorneys General declare that the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006, which provided an additional Federal enforcement tool against Internet gambling and which was signed into law last year, has "effectively driven many illicit gambling operators from the American marketplace." The NAAG letter then goes on to detail the opposition of 45 top law enforcement officials to H.R. 2046. I request that the entirety of this letter be included in the RECORD immediately following my remarks, including the list of all the signers of this letter.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL,

Washington, DC, November 30, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. HARRY REID,  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,  
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,  
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC.

TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE: We, the Attorneys General of our respective States, have grave concerns about H.R. 2046, the "Internet Gambling Regulation and Enforcement Act of 2007." We believe that the bill would undermine States' traditional powers to make and enforce their own gambling laws.

On March 21, 2006, 49 NAAG members wrote to the leadership of Congress: "We encourage the United States Congress to help combat the skirting of state gambling regulations by enacting legislation which would address Internet gambling, while at the same time ensuring that the authority to set overall gambling regulations and policy remains where it has traditionally been most effective: at the state level." Congress responded by enacting the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006, UIGEA, which has effectively driven many illicit gambling operators from the American marketplace.

But now, less than a year later, H.R. 2046 proposes to do the opposite, by replacing state regulations with a Federal licensing program that would permit Internet gambling companies to do business with U.S.

customers. The Department of the Treasury would alone decide who would receive Federal licenses and whether the licensees were complying with their terms. This would represent the first time in history that the Federal government would be responsible for issuing gambling licenses.

A Federal license would supersede any state enforcement action, because §5387 in H.R. 2046 would grant an affirmative defense against any prosecution or enforcement action under any Federal or State law to any person who possesses a valid license and complies with the requirements of H.R. 2046. This divestment of state gambling enforcement power is sweeping and unprecedented.

The bill would legalize Internet gambling in each State, unless the Governor clearly specifies existing state restrictions barring Internet gambling in whole or in part. On that basis, a State may "opt out" of legalization for all Internet gambling or certain types of gambling. However, the opt-out for types of gambling does not clearly preserve the right of States to place conditions on legal types of gambling. Thus, for example, if the State permits poker in licensed card rooms, but only between 10 a.m. and midnight, and the amount wagered cannot exceed \$100 per day and the participants must be 21 or older, the Federal law might nevertheless allow 18-year-olds in that State to wager much larger amounts on poker around the clock.

Furthermore, the opt-outs may prove illusory. They will likely be challenged before the World Trade Organization. The World Trade Organization has already shown itself to be hostile to U.S. restrictions on Internet gambling. If it strikes down State opt-outs as unduly restrictive of trade, the way will be open to the greatest expansion of legalized gambling in American history and near total preemption of State laws restricting Internet gambling.

H.R. 2046 effectively nationalizes America's gambling laws on the Internet, "harmonizing" the law for the benefit of foreign gambling operations that were defying our laws for years, at least until UIGEA was enacted. We therefore oppose this proposal, and any other proposal that hinders the right of States to prohibit or regulate gambling by their residents.

Sincerely,

John S. Juthers, Attorney General of Colorado; Bill McCollum, Attorney General of Florida; Douglas Gansler, Attorney General of Maryland; Troy King, Attorney General of Alabama; Talis J. Colberg, Attorney General of Alaska; Terry Goddard, Attorney General of Arizona; Dustin McDaniel, Attorney General of Arkansas; Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Attorney General of California; Richard Blumenthal, Attorney General of Connecticut; Joseph R. (Beau) Biden III, Attorney General of Delaware.

Linda Singer, Attorney General of the District of Columbia; Thurbert E. Baker, Attorney General of Georgia; Alicia G. Limtiaco, Attorney General of Guam; Mark J. Bennett, Attorney General of Hawaii; Lawrence Wasden, Attorney General of Idaho; Lisa Madigan, Attorney General of Illinois; Stephen Carter, Attorney General of Indiana; Paul Morrison, Attorney General of Kansas; Charles C. Foti, Jr., Attorney General of Louisiana; G. Steven Rowe, Attorney General of Maine.

Lori Swanson, Attorney General of Minnesota; Jim Hood, Attorney General of Mississippi; Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, Attorney General of Missouri; Mike McGrath, Attorney General of Montana; Kelly A. Ayotte, Attorney Gen-

eral of New Hampshire; Anne Milgram, Attorney General of New Jersey; Gary King, Attorney General of New Mexico; Roy Cooper, Attorney General of North Carolina; Wayne Stenehjem, Attorney General of North Dakota; Marc Dann, Attorney General of Ohio.

W.A. Drew Edmondson, Attorney General of Oklahoma; Hardy Myers, Attorney General of Oregon; Tom Corbett, Attorney General of Pennsylvania; Patrick C. Lynch, Attorney General of Rhode Island; Henry McMaster, Attorney General of South Carolina; Larry Long, Attorney General of South Dakota; Robert E. Cooper, Jr., Attorney General of Tennessee; Greg Abbott, Attorney General of Texas; Mark Shurtleff, Attorney General of Utah; William H. Sorrell, Attorney General of Vermont. Robert McDonnell, Attorney General of Virginia; Rob McKenna, Attorney General of Washington; Darrell V. McGraw, Jr., Attorney General of West Virginia; J.B. Van Hollen, Attorney General of Wisconsin; Bruce A. Salzberg, Attorney General of Wyoming.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND  
SECURITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to support the Renewable Fuels, Consumer Protection, and Energy Efficiency Act of 2007. It is an initial step towards a new energy policy. Some will say this bill goes too far, others will claim it does not go far enough. While opportunities to overhaul our energy policy were missed, this bill does include a starting point for true reform.

Any attempt to transform the direction of our energy policy must include an increase in CAFE standards. Increasing fuel efficiency is something I have fought many years for. We have the technology to do it, we have the will to do it and now, with this bill, we have made the commitment to do it. This provision is the cornerstone for revamping our energy policy. It not only addresses our reliance on imported oil, but will also help stem the creation of green house gasses.

I agree with the inclusion of a Renewable Fuels Standard; however, as we have learned over the past few years, the manner in which it is executed raises its own set of questions. Our current thirst is for corn based ethanol. Of 5 billion gallons of biofuels produced domestically last year, 4.9 billion were derived from corn. Placing a limit on the amount of corn ethanol eligible to be applied in meeting the RFS is a necessary step. Yet, I have doubts as to whether that limit is too high and whether more should be done to ensure the development of other biofuels. Also, most studies give corn based ethanol an energy balance of 1.2. Would it not be a better long term policy to shift our focus towards a more efficient source of biofuel?

Finally, I am concerned about the effects this mandate could have on the Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake Bay Task Force and I have worked tirelessly to clean up this troubled waterway. Spurred on by government subsidies, farmers in the watershed have been drastically increasing their corn acreage. Due